

701—278.1(15) Sales and use tax refund for eligible businesses. For eligible businesses approved under the high quality jobs program, enterprise zone program, housing enterprise zone program, or workforce housing tax incentives program by the economic development authority, a refund of sales and use tax is available.

278.1(1) Sales and use tax eligible for refund. The sales and use tax for which the eligible business can receive a refund consists of the following:

a. Sales and use tax paid for gas, electricity, water, or sewer utility services; for tangible personal property; or on services rendered, furnished, or performed to or for a contractor or subcontractor and used in the fulfillment of a written contract relating to the construction or equipping of a facility of the eligible business.

b. If the eligible business is involved in a warehouse or a distribution center, sales and use tax attributable to racks, shelving and conveyor equipment.

278.1(2) Sales and use tax ineligible for refund. The sales and use tax for which the eligible business cannot receive a refund consists of the following:

a. Any local option sales tax paid is not eligible for the refund. The refund is limited to the state sales and use tax paid.

b. Any sales and use tax attributable to intangible property, furniture, or furnishings is not eligible for the refund. “Furnishings” means any furniture, appliances, equipment, and accessories that are movable and with which a room or building is furnished for comfort, convenience, or aesthetic value. Examples include rugs, décor, and window coverings. “Furnishings” does not include installed flooring such as hardwood, carpet, ceramic, stone, laminate, or vinyl.

278.1(3) Claiming the refund. To receive the refund, the eligible business must file a claim for refund within one year of project completion. For a manufacturing facility, project completion is the first date upon which the average annualized production of finished project for the preceding 90-day period at the manufacturing facility is at least 50 percent of the initial design capacity of the facility. For purposes of the workforce housing tax incentives program, “project completion” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 15.355(2). For all other facilities, project completion is the date of completion of all improvements necessary for the start-up, location, expansion or modernization of the business.

a. To request a refund of the sales and use tax paid for gas, electric, water or sewer utility services used during construction, the eligible business must file Form IA 843, Refund Return, with the department of revenue. The claim shall include the agreement number given by the Iowa economic development authority, along with copies of invoices or a schedule to support the refund amount.

b. To request a refund of the sales and use tax paid on tangible personal property, or on services rendered to, furnished to, or performed for a contractor or subcontractor relating to the construction or equipping of a facility, the eligible business must file the Construction Contract Claim for Refund form, along with the Iowa Contractor’s Statement, with the department of revenue. It is not necessary to attach invoices to the Construction Contract Claim for Refund form, but the department reserves the right to request invoices when reviewing the refund claim.

c. To request a refund of the sales and use tax attributable to racks, shelving and conveyor equipment, the eligible business must file Form IA 843, Refund Form, with the department of revenue. The claim shall include the agreement number given by the Iowa economic development authority, along with copies of invoices or a schedule to support the refund amount. The combined amount of refunds attributable to sales and use tax paid on racks, shelving and conveyor equipment, along with tax credit certificates issued for sales and use tax paid on racks, shelving and conveyor equipment provided in 701—subrule 501.10(5), shall not exceed \$500,000 during a fiscal year. The requests for refunds or tax credit certificates will be processed in the order the requests are received on a first-come, first-served basis until the amount of refunds or credits authorized for issuance has been exhausted. If applications for refunds or tax credit certificates exceed the \$500,000 limitation for any fiscal year, the applications shall be considered in succeeding fiscal years.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 15.

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